

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: MAY DAY IN ARGENTINA

1.MORNING OCCUPIED BY CEREMONIES SURROUNDING OPENING OF NEW SESSION OF CONGRESS. AREA AROUND CONGRESS BUILDING CORDONED OFF AND HEAVY SECURITY PRECAUTIONS WERE IN EVIDENCE. PRESIDENT PERON AND VICE PRESIDENT MRS PERON ARRIVED WITH COLORFUL MOUNTED ESCORT AND LATTER PRESIDED OVER JOINT SESSION OF THE TWO HOURS IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. ALL EIGHT MINISTERS GAVE ACCOUNTING OF PAST YEAR'S WORK OF THEIR MINISTRIES IN CONSECUTIVE SPEECHES LASTING TWO AND ONE QUARTER HOURS. SUMMARY OF SPEECHES BY MINISTER OF INTERIOR, FOREIGN RELATIONS, AND DEFENSE WILL BE SENT SEPARATELY. AFTER SHORT BREAK PRESIDENT PERON ADDRESSED THE JOINT SESSION FOR THIRTYMINUTES. AMBASSADOR HIL AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS ATTENDED THESE CEREMONIES.

2. IN HIS SPEECH TO THE CONGRESS, PERON STRESSED THEMES OF NATIONAL UNITY AND MODERNIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS. HE BEGAN BY PRESSING OPPOSITION PARTIES FOR PATRIOTIC COLLABORATION. HE SAID 20 YEARS AGO BEFORE SAME BODY HE HAD POINTED OUT THAT NATIONAL PROGRESS DERIVED FROM WORK NOT VIOLENCE. THIS STILL UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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TRUE. HENCE ARGENTINA NEEDED AND WOULD HAVE PEACE. WHILE ALL REVOLUTIONARY PERIODS ARE CHARACTERIZED BY VIOLENCE, VIOLENCE

IMPEDED THE WORK OF NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION. MUCH TO TODAY'S DISORDER IN ARGENTINA IS INSPIRE FROM ABROAD. REVOLUTIONARY ORGANS MUST OVERCOME DISORDERS CAUSED BY IMPERIALISM AND THOSE AGENTS OF CHAOS WHO WORK IN THE SHADOWS. NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION DEPENDS UPON NATIONAL UNITY. ALL ARGENTINES MUST WORK TOGETHER, REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL PERSUASION. NATIONS OF LATIN AMERICA MUST ALSO WORK TOGETHER IN MUTUAL SELF-RESPECT. LATIN AMERICA MUST UNITE TO OVERCOME DOMINATION. THIS IS THE HOUR OF THE THIRD WORLD. WORLD IS MOVING INEXORABLY TOWARD UNIVERSALISM UNDER WHICH NO ONE WILL HAVE HEGEMONY AND ALL IDEOLOGICAL BARRIERS WILL BE LIFTED. PERON CONCLUDED BY URGING ALL NATIONAL SECTORS -- WORKERS, STUDENTS, MANAGEMENT, CHURCH, INTELLECTUALS, ARMED FORCES AND SO FORTH -- TO WORK TOGETHER TO CREATE A MODEL ARGENTINE FOR THE FUTURE. KEY TO SUCCESS IN THIS ENDEAVOR IS PLANNING WHICH GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY UNDERTAKEN TO PROVIDE. PERON WAS INTERRUPTED EIGHT TIMES BY APPLAUSE AND GIVEN STANDING OVATION AT END OF SPEECH.

3. CITY WAS CALM DURING MORNING WITH ONLY A FEW SCUFFLES REPORTED. BY NOON CROWDS WERE BEGINNING TO CONVERGE UPON THE PLAZA DE MAYO FOR THE AFTERNOON FESTIVITIES. THE REPORTED SCUFFLES WERE PRIMARILY BETWEEN THE MONTONEROS AND OTHER GROUPS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY TENDENCY WITH THE POLICE AND/OR ORTHODOX PERONISTS WHO ATTEMPTED TO IMPEDE THEIR ARRIVAL AT THE PLAZA. THESE EFFORTS IN GENERAL SUCCEEDED AND THE REVOLUTIONARY BANDS WERE ADMITTED TO THE PLAZA ONLY IN SMALL GROUPS AND ON THE EDGE OF THE PRINCIPAL CROWD. THIS UNDOUBTEDLY WAS A MAJOR FACTOR IN AVERTING ANY CONFRONTATIONS IN THE PLAZA ITSELF DURING THE AFTERNOON CEREMONIES. TWO POLICEMEN REPORTEDLY WERE WOUNDED IN THE DAY'S SCUFFLES. CROWD AT PLAZA ESTIMATED AT 200,000. A FEW PLACARDS IDENTIFYING INDIVIDUAL LABOR UNIONS AND AT LEAST ONE MONTONARO BANNER WERE VISIBLE ON TV SCREEN BUT FOR MOST PART CROWD SEEMED TO HAVE OBEYED PERON'S INSTRUCTION TO CARRY ONLY ARGENTINE FLAGS. CROWD WAS RELATIVELY ORDERLY AND MOMENT OF HOMAGE WAS OBSERVED FOR EVITA AND OTHER FALLEN HEROES BEFORE PERON SPOKE. NATIONAL ANTHEM, RATHER THAN PERONIST MARCH, WAS THEN SUNG. MRS PERON AT THIS POINT CROWNED THE MAY DAY QUEEN AND TWO PRINCESSES CHOSEN BY THE LABOR UNIONS.

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4. PERON'S SPEECH TO THE CROWD IN THE PLAZA BEGAN SHORTLY AFTER FIVE P.M. AND LASTED ONLY SOME 20 MINUTES, BEING FREQUENTLY INTERRUPTED BY THE ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD. PERON PAID HOMAGE TO THE LABOR UNIONS AND THEIR LEADERS WHO THROUGH 20 YEARS OF STRUGGLE AND HARSHIP HAD REMAINED LOYAL AND FIRM. HE SAID HE TOOK CHEERS OF CROWD AS APPROVAL FOR WHAT HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. UNFORTUNATELY, HE CONTINUED EVEN NOW WHEN NATIONAL REUNIFICATION IS BEING ACHIEVED, THERE ARE STILL SOME WHO DISAPPROVE -- "THE STUPID ONES WHO SHOUT." AN APPARENT REFERENCE TO DISQUITED LEFTISTS. HE PRAISED WORKERS

FOR THEIR SACRIFICE IN ABIDING BY THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC PACT WHICH HE SAID WOULD SAVE THE NATION. HE NOTED THAT THOSE WHO JEER AT THE LABOR LEADERS FORGET THE LEADERS' 13 YEARS OF SERVICE AND STRUGGLE. WE HAVE NOT YET TAKEN REPRISALS AGAINST THOSE WHO JEER HE SAID BUT NOTED THAT IT WAS TIME FOR ALL IN THE MOVEMENT TO DEFINE THEMSELVES. INFILTRATORS FROM WITHIN ARE MORE DANGEROUS THAN ENEMIES FROM WITHOUT BECAUSE AT LEAST ONE KNOWS WHERE THE LATTER STANDS. HE CALLED ON CGT TO CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS AND TO HOLD ITSELF IN READINESS BECAUSE "IT MAY FALL TO US TO INITIATE ACTION AGAINST THE BAD ONES (MALVADOS)". HE CONCLUDED SPEECH AS HE HAD INITIATED REMARKS BEFORE THE CONGRESS BY PAYING HOMAGE TO ARGENTINE POLITICAL PARTIES.

5. AFTER SPEECH CROWD FOR MOST PART DISPERSED IN ORDERLY FASHION. A FEW SCATTERED FIST FIGHTS AND GUN FIGHTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED BUT SECURITY ELEMENTS ARE NOW RETIRING TO THEIR HEADQUARTERS BECAUSE OF REDUCED EXPECTATION OF ANY SIGNIFICANT DISORDERS.
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